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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Note No. 2690
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The body of Major Rudolf Anderson Jr., a United States Air Force pilot whose plane was shot down over Cuba, was escorted back to the United States from Havana on the night of Sunday, 4 November 1962, by Brigadier I.J. Rikhye, Military Adviser to the Acting Secretary-General.

Brigadier Rikhye had been delegated to escort the body after the Acting Secretary-General had obtained agreement to its return from the Cuban Government during his visit to Havana last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Brigadier Rikhye flew to Havana from Miami by a Swiss chartered plane on Sunday afternoon. He was greeted at the airport by Ambassador Emil A. Stadelhofer of Switzerland, whose embassy in Havana has taken over the handling of United States interests in Cuba, and by the Director of Protocol of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Antonio Carrillo Carreras.

The Cuban authorities handed over the casket containing the body of Major Anderson to the Swiss Ambassador and his consular aides, who, in turn, consigned the body and the pilot's personal effects to Brigadier Rikhye. When the casket was carried aboard the plane, Brigadier Rikhye covered it with the flag of the United States.

Brigadier Rikhye escorted the body back to Miami, where it was given over to Brigadier General J.J. Casson and an honor guard of the United States Air Force.

President Kennedy's personal plane then flew the body and its escort to Andrews Air Force Base, where it was handed over to Major Anderson's family.

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